

New Cottage, Warren Farm, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent TN25 4HW.

DEFOLIATION IN NORTHAW GREAT WOOD, HERTFORDSHIRE, 1982. — Over a 25/30 acre area the oaks, birches and hornbeams in Northaw Great Wood are as bare as at midwinter. The chief culprits were *Hybernia defoliaria* Clerck, *Apocheima pilosaria* D. & S., *Operophtera brumata* L. and, of course, *Tortrix viridana* L. On a recent visit, at the foot of every tree trunk 20 or 30 larvae were laboriously ascending — to nothing. Adjacent woodland has been comparatively unharmed. — R. LOVELL-PANK, 33 The Highlands, Hatfield Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1HU. 7.vi.1982.

CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR OF TWO EGG-LAYING AGLAIS URTICAE L. — On the 14th June 1982, I saw two *A. urticae* on a nettle bed, which from where I stood on a path I at first thought were *in cop*. I slowly approached them through the nettles and was surprised to find two females egg-laying on the same leaf. Their abdomens were less than a half inch apart and their heads about an inch apart. Nettles cannot be at a premium in this area, since this particular bed follows the river Nene near Northampton for at least a mile and is several yards wide all the way. — D. STOKES, 97 Mendip Road, Northampton NN5 6BA.

TROPIDIA SCITA (HARRIS) (DIPTERA: SYRPHIDAE) IN VC 69. — I took a female specimen of this rather uncommon species on the edge of Holker Moss (SD 3579) on 3 June 1981. It has previously been recorded from just south of this area in VC 60 by Skidmore (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 98: 184) who captured the species at Storrs Moss near Silverdale on 17 June 1956. I also have taken the species in that locality on 23 May 1964. — DR. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Kendal Wood, New Hutton, Cumbria, LA8 0AQ. 28.iv.1982.

APPARENT EXCESS IN NUMBERS OF FEMALE ANTHOCHARIS CARDAMINES L. (ORANGE-TIP) IN DUMFRIESSHIRE. — On the 22nd May 1982, just north of the small village of Tynron, Dumfriesshire, I came across several dozen of this butterfly on a small willow marsh which was well carpeted with Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). The curious fact about this colony was the ratio of at least 15 females to each male, and I wish to make it clear that I was not confusing female Orange-tips with Green-veined Whites. Returning to the site ten days later not a single Orange-tip was to be seen, and I found much to my regret that all the Lady's Smock had been cropped by sheep. — R. H. MILLER, Oakmere, South Street, Garlieston, Wigtownshire.

THE CLOUDED YELLOW: COLIAS CROCEUS (GEOFFROY) IN JUNE 1982. — A single butterfly was seen on the 5th June by the road that runs parallel to the South Downs at the village of Westmeston, East Sussex. — D. DEY, 26 Manor Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8NG.

THE PAINTED LADY: CYNTHIA CARDUI L. IN JUNE 1982. — On the 4th June, while walking along the lane here opposite my house, I observed a Painted Lady sunning itself on the grass verge. — T. NEWNHAM, The Victory, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH17 6EU [We have also received reports of the Painted Lady having been seen this June in Kent, Surrey, Dorset, Cornwall and Devon. Editor].